

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0372

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, UR

SUBJECT: WEST BERLIN PASSAGE IN BREZHNEV'S
REPORT TO 25TH CPSU CONGRESS

REF: MOSCOW 2829

1. IN LIGHT OF WELL-KNOWN SENSITIVITY OF ATTENTIVE
BERLINERS TO NUANCES OF SOVIET POLICY, IT WAS NOT
UNEXPECTED THAT MAJOR LOCAL NEWSPAPERS PRINTED
VERBATIM ON FEB 25 PASSAGE IN BREZHNEV'S REPORT
TO 25TH CPSU CONGRESS DEALIN WITH" WEST BERLIN
SETTLEMENT." ONLY SPRINGER PRESS, HOWEVER,
OFFERED DIRECT COMMENTARY ON THIS PASSAGE AS
DISTINCT FROM REPORT AS WHOLE. POPULAR TABLOID
B.Z. PREFESSED TO SEE SIGNIFICANCE IN INCOMPLETE
CITATION OF 1973 BRANDT-BREZHNEV FORMULA CALLING
FOR " STRICT OBSERVANCE AND FULL IMPLEMENTATION " OF
QA BY ALL CONCERNED. IN SO CAREFULLY DRAFTED A
SPEECH, OMISSION OF " FULL IMPLEMENTATION" COULD NOT
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BUT BE PURPOSEFUL: IT IMPLIED THAT SOVIET UNION

WAS NO LONGER PREPARED TO LIVE UP TO COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPMENT OF BERLIN-FRG TIES. THIS, B.Z. ASSERTED, WAS TYPICAL OF OVERALL SOVIET POLICY TOWARDS BERLIN--" YOU GIVE, WE TAKE." WITH SOMEWHAT LESS ACERBITY, BERLIN MOREGENPOST DECLARED THAT OBVIOUS CONTRADICTION EXISTED BETWEEN BREZHNEV'S EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR " QUIET AND NORMAL" LIFE FOR WEST BERLIN AND RECENT SOVIET ACTIONS IN REFUSING TO ALLOW BERLIN'S INCLUSION IN THREE PENDING TREATIES WITH FRG, IN BOYCOTTING SPEED SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS, AND IN GENERALLY " SAWING AWAY" AT BERLIN-FRG TIES.

2. INTERESTING IF NOT AUTHORITATIVE COMMENT ON BERLIN PORTION OF BREZHNEV'S REPORT WAS AFFORDED BY SOVIET CONSUL(AND " EXPOSED KGB RESIDENT) KOZOBRODOV, WHO CALLED ON MISSION OFFICER AFTERNOON FEB 24 APPARENTLY WITH THIS EXPRESS PURPOSE IN MIND. AFTER READING OFF INFORMAL GERMAN TRANSLATION OF RUSSIAN TEXT, KOZOBRODOV NOTED THAT IT WAS WORTH EMPHASIZING THREE POINTS HERE:(A) CONCEPT THAT QA, IF DULY RESPECTED, CONSTITUTED IN AND OF ITSELF ADEQUATE SETTLEMENT OF " WEST BERLIN PROBLEM", (B) VALUE ATTACHED BY BREZHNEV TO COOPERATION WITH US, BRITAIN AND FRANCE ACHIEVED DURING QA NEGOTIATIONS; AND (C) SOVIET DESIRE THAT WEST BERLIN ENJOY (QUIET AND NORMAL" LIFE. KOZOBRODOV REMARKED THAT PRAISE FOR COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE OF THREE ALLIES DOUBTLESSLY REFERRED NOT ONLY TO ACTUAL QA NEGOTIATIONS BUT ALSO TO SUBSEQUENT PERIOD(UP TO PRESENT), AND HE ADDED THAT, IN HIS VIEW, OMISSION OF FRG FROM THIS FAVORED CATEGORY WAS DELIBERATE. WHEN ASKED HOW RECENT SOVIET ACTIONS WITH REGARD TO BERLIN COULD BE RECONCILED WITH GOAL OF ASSURING BERLIN NORMAL LIFE, KOZOBRODOV DISMISSED MATTERS SUCH AS SPEED SKATING BOYCOTT AND STRESSED CONTRIBUTION TO CITY'S WELL-BEING THAT SOVIETS HAD RECENTLY MADE IN CULTURAL SPHERE AS WELL AS CURRENT EFFORTS TO EXPAND COMMERCIAL

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RELATIONS WITH WEST BERLIN. SOVIET UNION, MOREOVER, HAD ALWAYS ACCEPTED LEVEL OF BERLIN-FRG TIES AS THEY HAD EXISTED AT TIME OF CONCLUSION OF QA.

3. COMMENT: WE SEE LITTLE THAT IS NEW AND DIFFERENT IN BREZHNEV'S REMARKS ON BERLIN, IT HAS LONG BEEN STANDARD SOVIET REFRAIN THAT ALL

WOULD BE WELL IN BERLIN IF ONLY QA WERE PROPERLY
OBSERVED BY ALL SIDES(I.E., IF WEST WERE TO
AC CEPT SOVIET INTERPRETATIONS OF AGREEMENT).
SIMILARILY, SOVIET PROFESSIONS OF DESIRE O SEE
BERLIN LEAD(QUIET AND NORMAL" LIFE HAVE BECOME
FAMILIAR ELEMENT OF THEIR LITANY (WITH SOVIET
CONCEPT OF " NORMALCY" CONNOTING A BERLIN
INCREASINGLY ISOLATED FROM WEST AND DRAWN MOR
AND MORE INTO " SOCIALIST" SPHERE). IN OUR VIEW,
ONLY NEW ELEMENT IN BREZHNEV REMARKS IS SEEMINGLY
PURPOSEFUL APPPOSITION OF ALLIED COOPERATION AND
FRG INSTRNSIGENCE(CLEARLY FRG IS UNNAMED
PRINCIPAL OFFENDER AS FAR AS IMPLEMENTATION
OFQA CONCERNED). EVEN THIS REFLECTS SOVIET
CONDUCT IN BERLIN, HOWEVR. THEY HAVE RECENTLY
BEEN SCRUPULOUSLY COOPERATIVE IN DEALING WITH
ALLIES, BUT WILL TO TAKE THE SENAT HEAD-ON
ON MATTERS INVOLVING BONN-BERLIN TIES.GEORGE

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